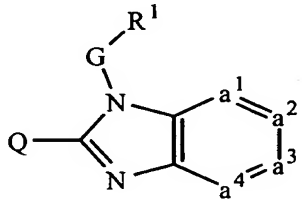
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. ***(currently amended)*** A compound of formula



(I)

~~a prodrug,~~ **an** addition salt~~,~~ or stereochemically isomeric form thereof wherein

$-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ represents a bivalent radical of formula

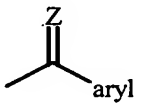
-N=CH-CH=CH- (a-2);

~~-CH=N-CH=CH (a-3);~~

~~-CH=CH-N=CH (a-4); or~~

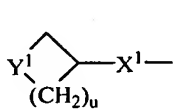
~~-CH=CH-CH=N (a-5);~~

wherein each hydrogen atom in the ~~radicals~~ **radical** (a-2)~~, (a-3), (a-4) and (a-5)~~ may optionally be replaced by halo, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, nitro, amino, hydroxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, polyhalo$C_{1-6}$alkyl, carboxyl, amino$C_{1-6}$alkyl, mono- or di($C_{1-4}$alkyl)amino$C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxycarbonyl, hydroxy$C_{1-6}$alkyl, or a radical of formula

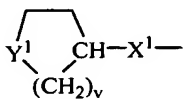


wherein Z is O, CH-C(=O)-$NR^{5a}R^{5b}$, $CH_2$, CH-$C_{1-6}$alkyl, N-OH or N-O-$C_{1-6}$alkyl;

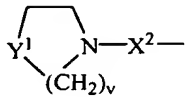
Q is a radical of formula



(b-4)



(b-5)



(b-6)

wherein

$Y^1$ is a bivalent radical of formula $-NR^2-$ or $-CH(NR^2R^4)-$;

$X^1$ is $NR^4$, S, S(=O), $S(=O)_2$, O, $CH_2$, C(=O), $C(=CH_2)$, CH(OH), $CH(CH_3)$, $CH(OCH_3)$, $CH(SCH_3)$, $CH(NR^{5a}R^{5b})$, $CH_2$-$NR^4$ or $NR^4$-$CH_2$;

$X^2$ is a direct bond, $CH_2$, C(=O), $NR^4$, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-$NR^4$, $NR^4$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl;

u is 2 or 3;

v is 2; and

whereby each hydrogen atom in the carbocycles and the heterocycles defined in radicals (b-4), (b-5), and (b-6) may optionally be replaced by $R^3$; with the proviso that when $R^3$ is hydroxy or $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, then $R^3$ can not replace a hydrogen atom in the $\alpha$ position relative to a nitrogen atom;

G is $C_{1-10}$alkanediyl substituted with one or more hydroxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, $C_{1-6}$alkylthio, aryl$C_{1-6}$alkylthio, $HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy $(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$ or aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyloxy$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$;

$R^1$ is a monocyclic heterocycle or aryl; said heterocycle being selected from piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, furanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl; and each heterocycle may optionally be substituted with 1 or where possible more substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, $C_{1-6}$alkylthio, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy$C_{1-6}$alkyl, aryl, aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyl, aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, hydroxy$C_{1-6}$alkyl, mono-or di($C_{1-6}$alkyl)amino, mono- or di($C_{1-6}$alkyl)amino$C_{1-6}$alkyl, polyhalo$C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkylcarbonylamino, $C_{1-6}$alkyl-$SO_2$-$NR^{5c}$-, aryl-$SO_2$-$NR^{5c}$-, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxycarbonyl, -C(=O)-$NR^{5c}R^{5d}$, $HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, $halo(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyloxy$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$ and mono- or di($C_{1-6}$alkyl)amino$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n$;

each n independently is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

$R^2$ is hydrogen, formyl, $C_{1-6}$alkylcarbonyl, Hetcarbonyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl substituted with $N(R^6)_2$, or $C_{1-10}$alkyl substituted with $N(R^6)_2$ and optionally with a second, third or fourth substituent

selected from amino, hydroxy, $C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $C_{2-5}$alkanediyl, piperidinyl, mono-or di($C_{1-6}$alkyl)amino, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxycarbonylamino, aryl and aryloxy;

$R^3$ is hydrogen, hydroxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyl or aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyloxy;

$R^4$ is hydrogen, $C_{1-6}$alkyl or aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyl;

$R^{5a}$, $R^{5b}$, $R^{5c}$ and $R^{5d}$ each independently are hydrogen or $C_{1-6}$alkyl; or

$R^{5a}$ and $R^{5b}$, or $R^{5c}$ and $R^{5d}$ taken together form a bivalent radical of formula $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 4 or 5;

$R^6$ is hydrogen, $C_{1-4}$alkyl, formyl, hydroxy$C_{1-6}$alkyl, $C_{1-6}$alkylcarbonyl or $C_{1-6}$alkyloxycarbonyl;

aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 or more-substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyl, hydroxy$C_{1-6}$alkyl, polyhalo$C_{1-6}$alkyl, and $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy; and

Het is pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, or pyridazinyl.

2. ***(cancelled)***

3. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein $R^1$ is phenyl optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-6}$alkyl or $C_{1-4}$alkyloxy; or pyridyl optionally substituted with 1 or more substituents selected from aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy$C_{1-6}$alkyl, aryl, mono-or di($C_{1-6}$alkyl)amino, C(=O)-$NR^{5c}R^{5d}$, halo or $C_{1-6}$alkyl.

4. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein G is $C_{1-4}$alkanediyl substituted with hydroxy, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy, $HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, $C_{1-6}$alkyloxy$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$ or aryl$C_{1-6}$alkyloxy$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$.

5. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein Q is a radical of formula (b-5) wherein v is 2 and $Y^1$ is $-NR^2-$.

6. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein $X^1$ is NH or $CH_2$.

7. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein $R^2$ is hydrogen or $C_{1-10}$alkyl substituted with $NHR^6$ wherein $R^6$ is hydrogen or $C_{1-6}$alkyloxycarbonyl.

8. ***(cancelled)***

9. ***(currently amended)*** A method of treating a respiratory syncytial viral infection, comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1, 3 to 7.

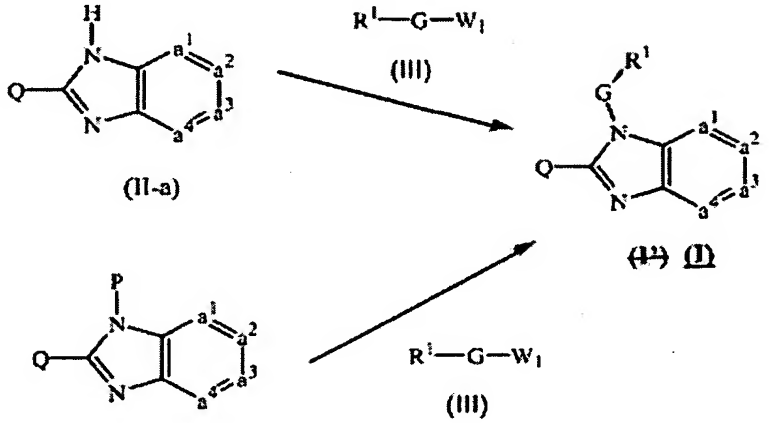
10. ***(currently amended)*** A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1, 3 to 7.

11. ***(previously presented)*** A process of preparing a composition as claimed in claim 10, comprising the step of intimately mixing said carrier with said compound.

Claims 12 to 14 ***(cancelled)***

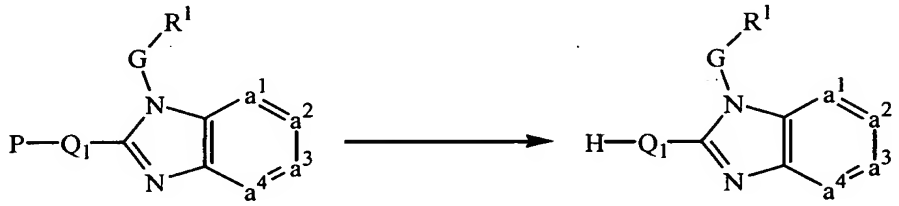
15. ***(currently amended)*** A process of preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least one step selected from the group consisting of:

a) reacting an intermediate of formula (II-a) or (II-b) with an intermediate of formula (III)




with $R^1$, G, Q and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $W_1$ being a leaving group, in the presence of a base and in a reaction-inert solvent;

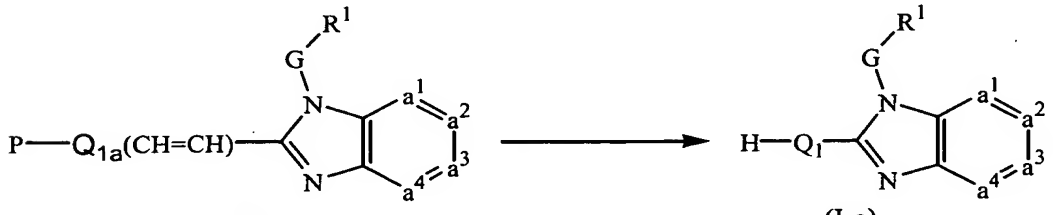
b) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (IV)



(IV) (I-a)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, H-$Q_1$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that $R^2$ or at least one $R^6$ substituent is hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

c) deprotecting and reducing an intermediate of formula (IV-a)

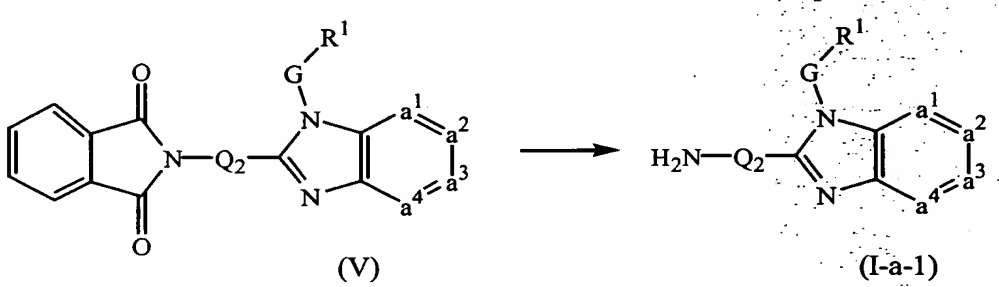


(IV-a) (I-a)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, H-$Q_1$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that $R^2$ or at least one $R^6$ substituent is

hydrogen, $Q_{1a}$(CH=CH) being defined as $Q_1$ provided that $Q_1$ comprises an unsaturated bond, and P being a protective group;

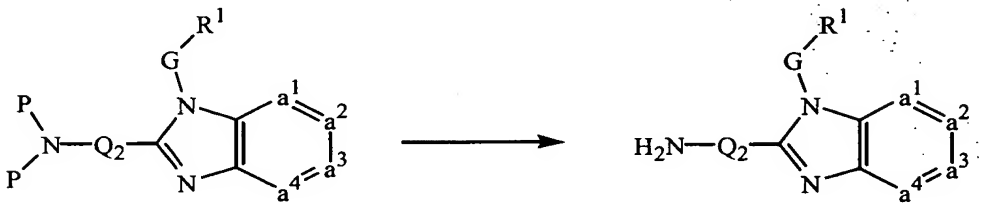
d) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (V)



(V) (I-a-1)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $H_2N$-$Q_2$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both $R^6$ substituents are hydrogen or $R^2$ and $R^4$ are both hydrogen;

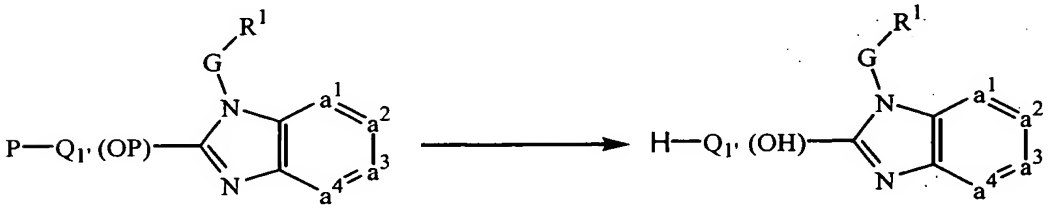
e) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VI)



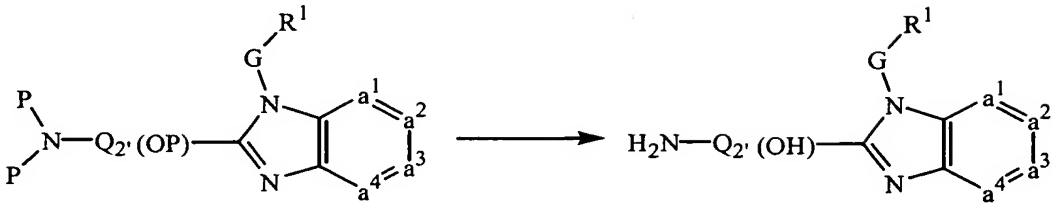
(VI) (I-a-1)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $H_2N$-$Q_2$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both $R^6$ substituents are hydrogen or $R^2$ and $R^4$ are both hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

f) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VII) or (VIII)



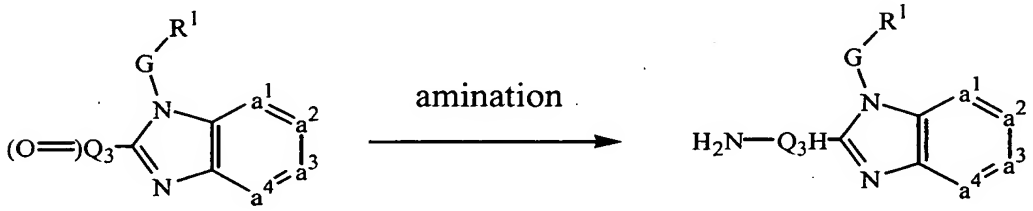
(VII) (I-a-2)



(VIII) (I-a-1-1)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, $H\text{-}Q_1\text{-}(OH)$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that $R^2$ or at least one $R^6$ substituent is hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, $H_2N\text{-}Q_2\text{-}(OH)$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both $R^6$ substituents are hydrogen or $R^2$ and $R^4$ are both hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, and P being a protective group;

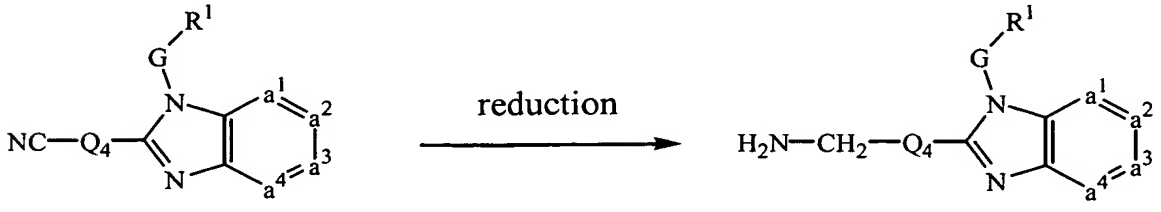
g) amination of an intermediate of formula (IX)




(IX) (I-a-1-2)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $H_2N\text{-}Q_3H$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both $R^6$ substituents are hydrogen or $R^2$ and $R^4$ are both hydrogen, and the carbon adjacent to the nitrogen carrying the $R^6$, or $R^2$ and $R^4$ substituents contains at least one hydrogen, in the presence of an amination reagent;

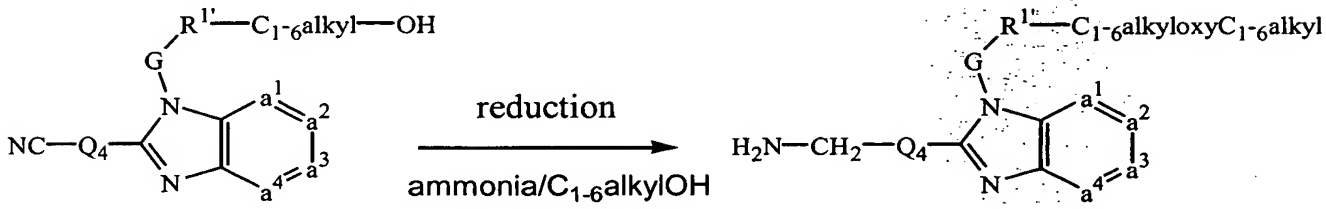
h) reducing an intermediate of formula (X)




(X) (I-a-1-3)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $H_2N-CH_2-Q_4$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a $-CH_2-NH_2$ moiety, in the presence of a reducing agent;

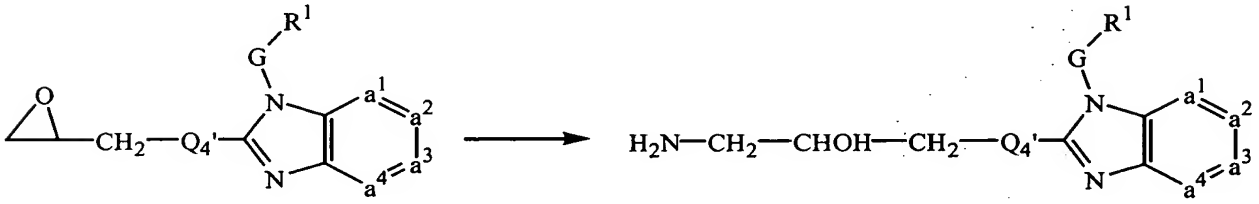
i) reducing an intermediate of formula (X-a)




(X-a) (I-a-1-3-1)

with G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, $H_2N-CH_2-Q_4$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a $-CH_2-NH_2$ moiety, and $R^{1'}$ being defined as $R^1$ according to claim 1 provided that it comprises at least one substituent, in the presence of a reducing agent and solvent;

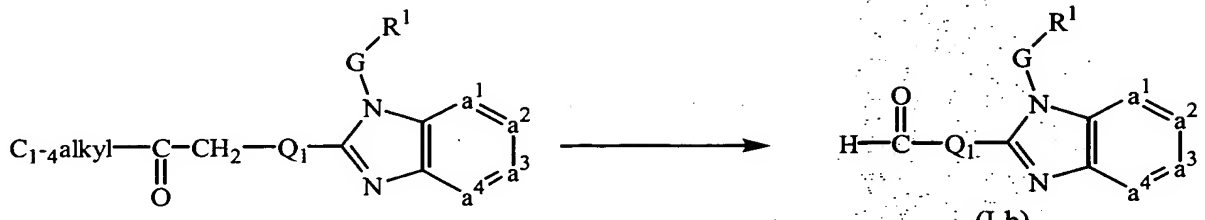
j) amination of an intermediate of formula (XI)




(XI) (I-a-1-3-2)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $H_2N-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-Q_4$, being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a $CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-NH_2$ moiety, in the presence of an amination reagent;

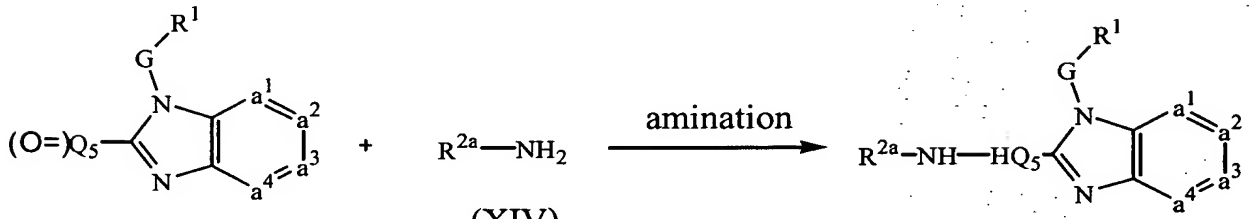
k) reacting an intermediate of formula (XII) with formic acid, formamide and ammonia



(XII) (I-b)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H-C(=O)-$Q_1$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that $R^2$ or at least one $R^6$ substituent is formyl;

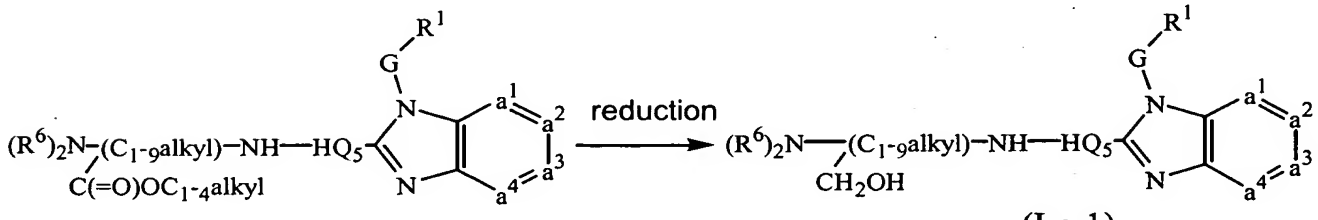
l) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIII) by reaction with an intermediate of formula (XIV)



(XIII) (XIV) (I-c)

with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $R^{2a}$-NH-$HQ_5$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that $R^2$ is other than hydrogen and is represented by $R^{2a}$, $R^4$ is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the $R^2$ and $R^4$ substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, in the presence of a reducing agent;

m) reducing an intermediate of formula (XV)

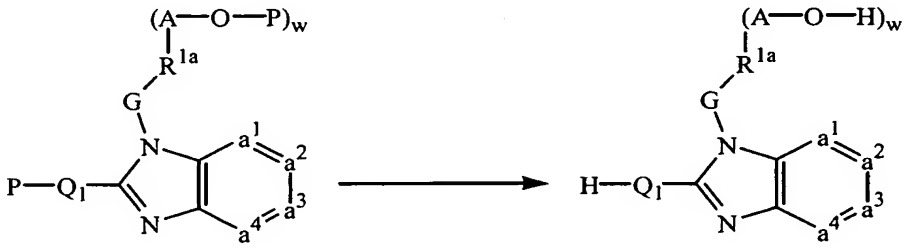


(XV) (I-c-1)

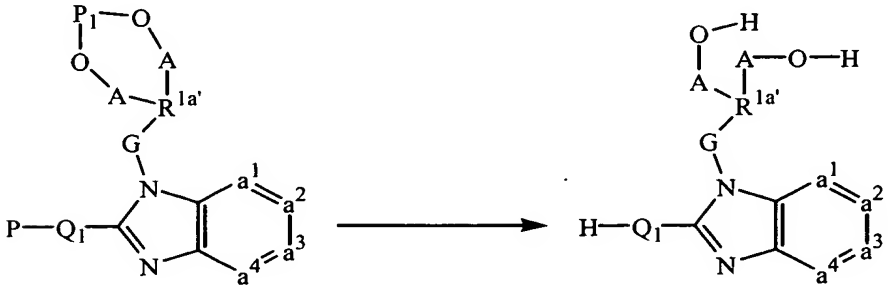
with $R^1$, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $(R^6)_2N$-[($C_1$-$_9$alkyl)$CH_2OH$]-NH-$HQ_5$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided

that $R^2$ is other than hydrogen and is represented by $C_{1-10}$alkyl substituted with $N(R_6)_2$ and with hydroxy, and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy, carries also two hydrogen atoms, and provided that $R^4$ is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the $R^2$ and $R^4$ substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, with a reducing agent;

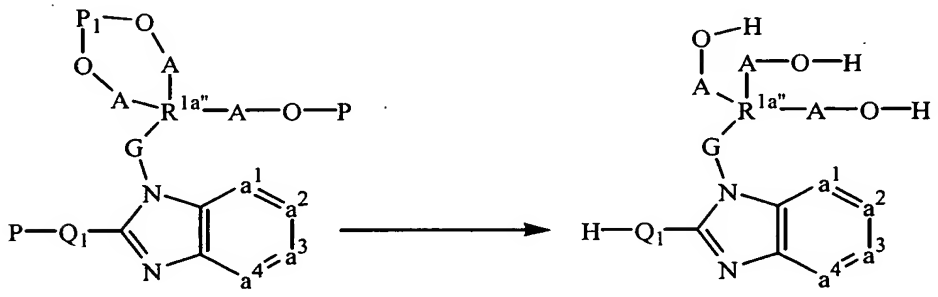
n) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XVI), (XVI-a) or (XVI-b)



(XVI) (I-d)



(XVI-a) (I-d-1)

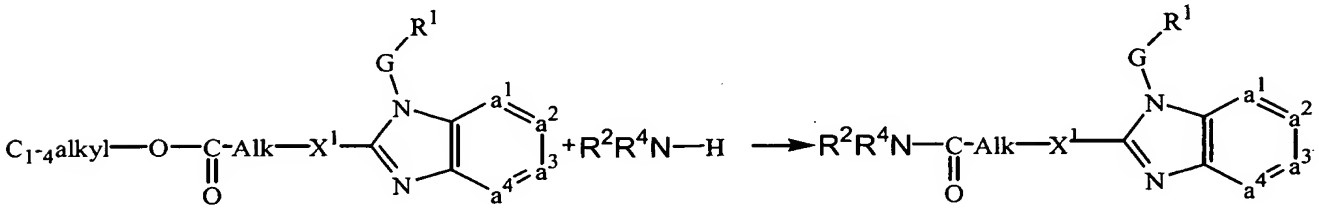


(XVI-b) (I-d-2)

with G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H-$Q_1$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that $R^2$ or at least one $R^6$ substituent is

hydrogen, and $R^{1a}$-(A-O-H)$_w$, $R^{1a'}$-(A-O-H)$_2$ and $R^{1a''}$-(A-O-H)$_3$ being defined as $R^1$ according to claim 1 provided that $R^1$ is substituted with hydroxy, hydroxy$C_{1-6}$alkyl, or HO(-$CH_2$-$CH_2$-O)$_n$-, with w being an integer from 1 to 4 and P or $P_1$ being a protecting group, with an acid;

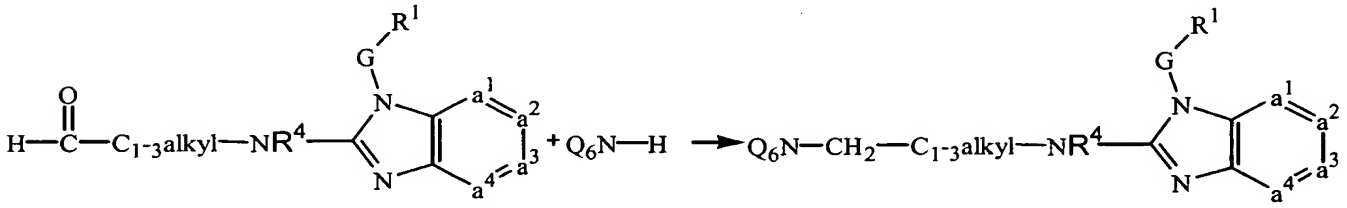
o) amination of an intermediate of formula (XVII)



(XVII) (XVIII) (I-e)

with $R^1$, G, -$a^1$=$a^2$-$a^3$=$a^4$-, Alk, $X^1$ $R^2$ and $R^4$ defined as in claim 1, in the presence of an amination agent;

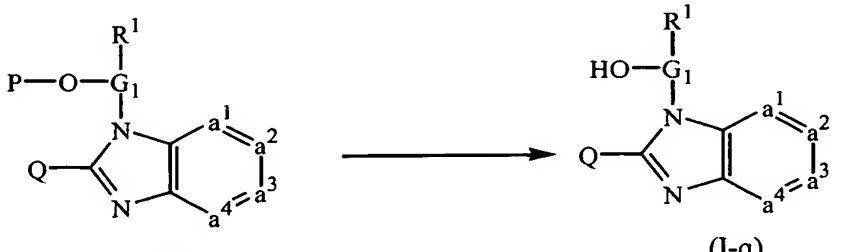
p) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIX)



(XIX) (XX) (I-p)

with $R^1$, G, and -$a^1$=$a^2$-$a^3$=$a^4$- defined as in claim 1, and $Q_6$N-$CH_2$-$C_{1-3}$alkyl-$NR^4$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that in the definition of Q, $X^2$ is $C_{2-4}$alkyl-$NR^4$, in the presence of an amination agent;

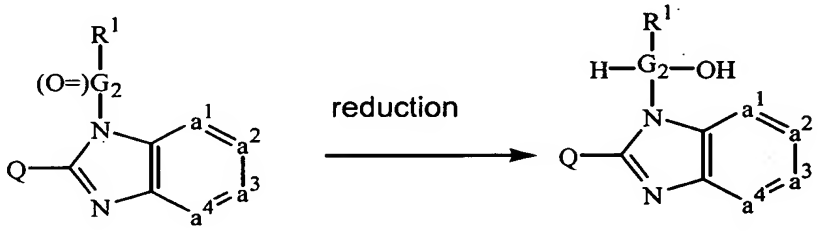
q) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XXI)



(XXI) (I-q)

with $R^1$, Q, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and HO-$G_1$ being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy or HO-$(CH_2CH_2O-)_n$; and

r) reducing an intermediate of formula (XXII)




(XXII) (I-q-1)

with $R^1$, Q, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H-$G_2$-OH being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy substituent carries also at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a reducing agent.

Claims 16 to 17 ***(cancelled)***

18. ***(currently amended)*** The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula ~~(I')~~ (I), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic acid addition salt by treatment with an acid.

19. ***(currently amended)*** The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula ~~(I')~~ (I), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic base addition salt by treatment with alkali.

20. ***(currently amended)*** The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of converting the acid addition salt form of compound of formula ~~(I')~~ **(I)**, or stereochemically isomeric forms, thereof, into the free base by treatment with alkali.

21. ***(currently amended)*** The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of converting the base addition salt form of compound of formula ~~(I')~~ **(I)**, or stereochemically isomeric forms, thereof, into the free acid by treatment with acid.

22. ***(currently amended)*** The process of claim 15, further comprising the step of converting said compound of formula ~~(I')~~ **(I)**, or stereochemically isomeric form, into a different form of compound of formula ~~(I')~~ **(I)**, stereochemically isomeric form, metal complex, quaternary amine or *N*-oxide form thereof.

23. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is *N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-3-[(2-methoxyethoxy)(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-7-methyl-*3H*-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-2-amine.

24. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is 1-phenyl-2-[2-(piperidin-4-ylamino)-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-3-yl]-ethanol.

25. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is 1-phenyl-2-(2-piperidin-4-ylmethyl-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-3-yl)-ethanol.